ROAD TO APEHOOD

The Scopes trial in Dayton, Tennessee, in the early 1920's, was a gala affair. A high school teacher named Scopes taught pupils, in violation of Tennessee Law, duly enacted by the Legislature, that men were descended from apes. Scopes was charged with the legal offense and put on trial. He was defended by Clarence Darrow, the famous criminal lawyer who also defended Leopold and Loeb in the Bobby Franks murder case. The simplistic literalism of Fundamentalist religion was defended by William Jennings Bryan. In retrospect, it seems to me that Bryan did not do a very good job of defending religion. Darrow baited Bryan by asking him what the Bible said about the age of the world. In fact, the Bible is mutely non-committal on this subject. Once upon a time, however, there was an Irish Bible printer who embellished his product by adding a chronology purporting to show the age of the world and the total chronology of human events. A large number of King James Bibles were printed with the Irish printer's marginal notes and other bad guesses. These, needless to say, had nothing whatsoever to do with the ancient manuscripts from which Biblical texts are derived. Nevertheless, Bryan accepted literally everything the Irish printer said, as well as everything the ancient prophets had said. Bryan was an unthinking man. To him, a Bible was a thing he bought in a store or from a Bible salesman. Since he had bought it and paid good money for it, everything in it had to be literally true, even if added by an Irish printer in the Nineteenth Century. The mass media used the Scopes trial to "educate" the American masses in materialistic dialectic. The Scopes show was a pretty shallow affair, but there was a great lot of hoopla about it. There was a popular song called "YOU CAN'T PUT THAT MONKEY ON MY BACK." At the time of the trial, a caged baboon was displayed in a cage across the street from the Courthouse, so that Man could have a look at his simian cousin. The American Establishment was out to relegate all the inconvenient saints, apostles, and martyrs to a kind of whipsnade, so that unbridled materialism could have free reign. Sensitive observers noted a certain deterioration of the popular mind. It was in this period that the quack doctor appeared on a large scale in America. Quack cults of every kind began to flourish.

The common people of America were greatly agitated over the possibility that they might be descended from monkeys. Far away, in Spain, a more profound thinker named Jose Ortega Y Gaset was agitated about another possibility entirely. He pointed out that human culture was in a profound long-term decline. It was not a matter of any importance to argue whether or not men were descended from apes. THE PLAIN FACT WAS THAT THEY WERE RAPIDLY DEGENERATING INTO APES. The higher forms of human consciousness which Europe shaped and made aware were fading under the hot, cruel sun of materialism. Man was losing his humanity, becoming a mere biped of rather unpleasant and savage aspect. Serious European thinkers had entered upon a period of profound pessimism. The time had come, they said, when all of the higher and better attainments of Mankind would be lost. Religion would go, and culture would go, and Man would degenerate into a mere beast. Night was falling. This mode of thinking found little acceptance in America, where historical optimism prevailed.

The fact is that the pessimistic Europeans were right; the optimistic Americans were wrong. Human consciousness today is a fading star. Man is indeed degenerating into a mere ape. What is more, he is pretty far gone along the road to apehood. When I contemplate the politicians who prance and snort before the electorate in this election year, I am profoundly discouraged. I am not moved to any intense partisanship for or against any of them. Rather, I am simply gripped by a profound discouragement. The politicians demonstrate more clearly than any other types that Man is on the road back to apehood.

WHY is Man on the road back to apehood? Primarily because of defects in his religious perceptions. The awareness of God is the one and only thing which really sets Man apart from the beasts of the field. It is the source of all of the higher and better achievements of Mankind. Man's perceptions of reality must always be oriented toward the Basic Reality defined in the first verse of the St. John Gospel. Without this orientation Man is nothing. We cannot make a competent discussion of such a complex subject in a little paper like COMMON SENSE. The saints and sages of all the ages of Man have labored to define Man's relationship with ultimate Reality. Perhaps Oswald Spengler did as well as any of them. His DECLINE OF THE WEST demonstrates the manner in which a soul-form developes, the way in which human consciousness relates itself to the higher realities of the Universe. There is really no such force as "Progress." Human achievement is always an exercise in highly-cultivated human consciousness. Today we are in a period of declining human consciousness. The preposterous political philosophies which prevail on every hand today would not even be discussed seriously by bona fide humans. They are based upon a sophisticated, evil animalism. There is in them a Satanic desire to destroy human consciousness, to destroy Man as higher being.

Marxism is a prime case in point. The Marxist is not a "proletarian revolutionist." In the immediate, practical sense, the true Marxist is always one thing and one thing only: HE IS THE LAPDOG OF THE BIG MONEY INTEREST. He claims to be a "leader of the poor," but in fact he is only the Judas Ram who leads them into the slaughterhouse. He is a traitor against the poor, and, moreover, the worst kind of traitor, the premeditated, cold-blooded kind who deliberately calculates his traitorism in advance. Oswald Spengler said, "Proletarian movements always do the work of the Big Money, and that without the idealist in their ranks being in any way aware of the fact." Naive idealists are indeed sometimes attracted into Marxist movements, where they often come to a bad end; but Marxist parties are really run by the degenerate cynics rather than by the naive idealists. Leon Trotsky was the ideal Marxist. He claimed to be a "proletarian revolutionist," but he was really the well-paid and well-pampered lapdog of the Jewish financial community of New York. He went to Russia armed with millions of dollars. Such men are not "proletarians" in any economic sense. They might be called "proletarians" in one sense; they are utterly devoid of the aristocratic talent for real leadership; they are destitute of real character or integrity. But financially they are well-connected with the ruling class. In his book "THE REVOLUTION BETRAYED" Leon Trotsky claimed that HE was the real Marxist, and that his Stalinist enemies were betrayers of the Revolution. Trotsky was right. He was the very archtype of the true Marxist. He was a lapdog of the rich who claimed to be a leader of the poor.

Who are the real "Conservatives" of the world? The proletarians are the real conservatives. They are conservative to the point of being reactionary. Many efforts have been made to paint them in "Red" colors during the last 100 years; they remain obdurately reactionary. The man for whose guidance they yearn is not the Marxist; they yearn for the ARISTOCRAT, the one and only man who really understands them, and whom they understand, respect, admire. But the Aristocrat is extinct in today's degenerating world, so the masses drift rudderless. There is no real leadership in the world today. There are only the funny little men who whoremonger with phoney political philosophies, with asinine ideologies, with idle vanities, men whose public careers are exercises in organized futility, who represent merely fractured and defective forms of human consciousness.

Our self-proclaimed "saviors" are merely funny little men. Among these are a great many of the professional American "Anti-Communists." What is wrong with the Anti-Communists? They always point their fingers in the wrong direction. They depict Marxism as a sinister rebellion which boils up from the slums of the poor; they never tell the real truth, which is that Marxism boils out of the Board Rooms of the biggest banks in the world, and is, above all else, the servant of the MONEY POWER. They often write to tell us about publications which have been "penetrated" by Marxist conspirators. They try to tell us that Marxist writers have obtained jobs in vast daily papers, on mass circulation magazines, and are turning these capitalist media into Communist propaganda organs. Marxist writers do not "penetrate" the mass media. Rather, Marxists OWN the mass media and hire Communist writers because they jolly well want Communist writers, and no other kind. They do not have to "conspire" or "penetrate." They have only to give orders. Marxist writers do not penetrate the mass media while capitalistic owners helplessly wring their hands. It is the Capitalists who want the Marxists, who use the Marxists, pay the Marxists, pamper the Marxists. Bluntly, it is the Capitalists who created and financed Marxism from the beginning, and who support Marxism around the world today. So why try to tell us these cornball Anti-Communist myths, about how sinister plotters from the slums of the poor are "penetrating" the Bourgeois order?

The fact is that some of these "Anti-Communists" simply would never, never, never be willing to give up "Good Old Communism." How would they ever live without it? They pretend to be "against" it, but they do not really want to be rid of it. They want to USE it to win a macabre victory against the poor. COMMON SENSE is against Communism in an entirely different way. We really want to be RID of it, to eliminate it as a factor in social management. The phoney "Anti-Communist" wants to use "Left-Right" polarity of thought to manipulate public opinion. This system can work only when it has both a "Left" and a "Right" to manipulate. The hidden puppet-master controls both sides. He manipulates the puppets called "Left" and "Right" before the public eye, and the sucker trade thinks that a real battle is going on. What is really going on is the Victory of Nihilism, the triumph of sleazy charlatanry over character, intelligence, and integrity. Here again, we see Man marching backward toward Apehood.

What can arrest Man's degeneration toward Apehood?

Religion is the only force which can do it. Man can recover his fading humanity only by the regeneration of his spiritual life. Today we cannot hope for much from the big organized religious denominations. Perhaps we should view their plight with a certain charity; there is little use to waste billingsgate on them. Personally, I view them more in sorrow than in anger. They will not be significant participants in the coming spiritual battle. The fact is that we are moving toward the time of an "Underground Church," a time when the forces of spiritual regeneration will be utterly separated from the political and economic order. When I say "utterly separated" I mean just that; the underground Church of the future will have nothing to do with the jejune "reformism" of the "Social Gospel" crowd. The "Social Gospel" crowd, like the Marxists, are merely the lapdogs of jejune vested interests. The forces of real spiritual regeneration cannot and will not have anything to do with any mere "Left-Right" struggle.

The forces of spiritual regeneration have as their purpose to save Man from the kind of poverty which consists of "NOT BEING" rather than from the kind of poverty which consists of merely "NOT HAVING." Frederich Georg Juenger discusses these two kinds of poverty in his book THE FAILURE OF TECHNOLOGY. (Henry Regnery, Chicago). Today the "Social Gospel" crowd decries the kind of poverty which consists of "NOT HAVING." This is not the stuff of spiritual regeneration. This is merely Materialism on its last legs. They never mention the kind of poverty which consists of "NOT BEING." Why? Because this is the kind of poverty which the wicked vested interests of our time are constantly trying to fasten upon us. I once met a young English Lord who was ut-

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